

Energy Champion's Guide for Tip #2: Power Down!

The Opportunity

The City of Cambridge runs on computers. We can't live without them, but when we leave them on when we're not in the office (even for 20 minutes) or when we leave at the end of the day, the energy waste adds up to big money and unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

The City's policy is for employees to turn off their monitors, computers, and printers at the end of each work day.

What's the Impact?

- The annual CO₂ emissions from just 28 City computers and monitors that are not powered down are equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of one car.
- The average desktop PC wastes nearly half of the energy it consumes as heat.
- It is a MYTH that shutting down your computer every night is bad for it. Powering down is safe, will save energy, and help your computer to run longer. Powering down is recommended by the City's IT Department.
- Old CRT monitors consume at least twice as much electricity as flat screens.

What are We Referring To?

Any computer or consumer electronic device

- Desktop computers
- Monitors
- Computer speakers

- Scanners
- Laptops
- Printers

(If printers/scanners are in a common area, designate someone to turn off at end of day.)

Financial and Environmental Benefit

IT ALL ADDS UP! Powering down just ONE computer and monitor at the end of the day can save approximately \$65 per year and prevent 350 pounds of CO2 emissions. See attached worksheet for more details.

Shutting off ALL city computers at the end of the work day prevents over 1,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and saves \$350,000 annually.

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Tips for Employees to Reduce Energy use

- Plug all your computer equipment into a common power strip—one flick of the "off" switch will turn them all off. However, you still need to shut down your computer properly.
- Don't turn on printers, speakers, scanners, or other peripherals until they're needed.
- Turn down the brightness setting on your monitor. The brighter the setting on your monitor, the more energy being consumed.
- Screen savers do not save energy. In fact, certain graphics-intensive screen savers can
 cause the computer to burn more energy, and may actually prevent a computer from
 entering sleep mode.

How You Can Help: The Energy Champion's Role

It's everyone's responsibility to turn off his or her computer when not in use. But as the team leader, the Energy Champion has a critical role to play in the success of Power Down!

- Post the Power Down posters in strategic areas to jog employees' memories—by the doors, near the printers, etc.
- Meet with your department/division to determine what equipment must remain on at all
 times. For these items, make sure the power save settings are activated. And for other
 shared equipment, decide how to assign responsibilities for turning off items in common
 areas, like printers and scanners.
- Calculate your own computer's energy use and spread the word to your fellow employees
 by using a Kill A Watt[™] meter. Contact Kari Hewitt at ext.6947 for help with this.
- Continue your walks around the office and gentle reminders to turn off lights and, now, computers.
- If you see someone with an old CRT monitor, suggest he or she submit
 a CRS request to support for a new flat panel monitor. (*This applies to municipal departments only, not schools.*)



Sources and More information

U.S. DOE, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10070
Climate Savers Computing: http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org/